

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07
/032 W

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R 061710Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0067

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

COMDT COAST GUARD

CNO WASHDC

SECTransportation

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US

SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD PHASE-OUT

REF: (A) PORT OF SPAIN 2864, (B) STATE 285910 (NOTAL),
(C) PORT OF SPAIN 3109 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE TRINIDAD GOVERNMENT RESPONDED ON DECEMBER 3 IN PARLIAMENT TO THE OPPOSITION INQUIRY CONCERNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE OMEGA STATION IN TRINIDAD (REF A). LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE KAMAL MOHAMMED STATED THAT THE STATION WAS OPERATED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1961 TREATY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE THEN FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES. THE AGREEMENT, HE SAID, GAVE THE U.S. THE RIGHT TO OPERATE A NAVAL STATION AND AN EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONICS STATION IN THE DEFENSE AREA AT CHAGUARAMAS.

2. IN 1970 MOHAMMED SAID, OMEGA TRINIDAD WAS ONE OF FOUR DEVELOPMENTAL STATIONS IN OPERATION AROUND THE WORLD. THE TRINIDAD STATION WAS, HE SAID, STILL DEVELOPMENTAL AND IS DUE TO BE PHASED OUT AT THE END OF 1977. MOHAMMED STATED THAT IN 1970, WHEN THE
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CABINET DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE RETURN OF THE SITE OF

THE U.S. AIR FORCE MISSILE TRACKING STATION, IT ALSO PROPOSED A NEW FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT TO COVER THE OPERATION OF THE OMEGA STATION. HE CONCLUDED THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLY WITH A STATEMENT THAT THE 1961 AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1977.

3. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON DECEMBER 3, AND NO REPORTS OF THE STATEMENT HAVE YET APPEARED IN THE MEDIA. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

4. AS EMBASSY HAD HOPED AND AS ITS EFFORTS TO CONSULT (REF C) WERE DIRECTED, THE GOTT STATEMENT WAS BRIEF, NON-CONTENTIOUS, AND DID NOT FORECLOSE THE OPTION OF EXTENDING THE OPERATION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD BEYOND 1977. IF THIS OPTION IS TO BE REALISTICALLY PURSUED, HOWEVER, AN EARLY DECISION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERMS IS IMPERATIVE.
FAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS, TRACKING STATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO03190
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760454-0699
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761269/aaaachww.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PORT OF SPAIN 2864, 76 STATE 285910, 76 PORT OF SPAIN 3109
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMEGA TRINIDAD PHASE-OUT
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TD, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006